

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 070673  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 070673

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT LAGOS 3324 SENT ACTION SECSTATE USUN INFO  
MOGADISCIO ADDIS ABABA LIBREVILLE BONN PARIS OTTAWA LONDON  
ROME MOSCOW NAIROBI PORT LOUIS MARCH 15.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3324

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, UNSC, SO, ET

SUBJECT: NIGERIANS REMAIN NEGATIVE ON SECURITY COUNCIL ROLE IN  
THE HORN

REF: STATE 65221

1. I DISCUSSED WITH MEA AFRICAN DIRECTOR AKADIRI THIS AFTERNOON  
THE QUESTION OF MULTILATERAL ACTION ON THE HORN ALONG LINES OF  
REFTEL. AKADIRI SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE QUESTION BY  
TELEPHONE WITH GARBA JUST PRIOR TO GARBA'S DEPARTURE FROM NEW YORK.  
HE HADN'T YET BEEN ABLE TO GET TO GARBA SINCE GARBA'S RETURN THIS  
MORNING TO LAGOS. THE NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR IN ADDIS ABABA HAD  
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TELEPHONED YESTERDAY. FINALLY, THE SOMALI AMBASSADOR TO NIGERIA  
HAD CALLED ON HIM THIS MORNING TO PRESENT SOMALIA'S VIEWS. THE  
UPSTOT WAS THAT NEETHER ETHIOPIA NOR SOMALIA COULD ATTEND AN OAU  
MEETING THIS MONTH. BOTH COUNTRIES WISHED TO POSTPONE UNTIL  
ROUGHLY THE FIRST TEN DAYS OF APRIL. THE FMG HAD THEREFORE CON-  
CLUDED THAT FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO CONVENE A MEETING PRIOR TO APRIL  
WOULD BE FRUITLESS.

2. THE FMG CONTINUED TO SEE NO, REPEAT, NO APPROPRIATE ROLE FOR THE TIME BEING FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL. REFUGEE AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE MIGHT WELL BE NEEDED, BUT THIS COULD BE WORKED OUT UNDER THE TERMS OF THE ONGOING MANDATE OF THE UNHCR. IF INDEED MOST OF THE REFUGEES WERE MOVING FROM THE OGADEN INTO SOMALIA, AS PRESS REPORTS SEEMED TO INDICATE, SOMALIA MIGHT WELCOME SUCH ASSISTANCE. THE ETHIOPIAN ATTITUDE TOWARD POSSIBLE UN ASSISTANCE WOULD BE FOR THE EPMG TO DECIDE. AKADIRI THOUGHT THE US COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE REGARDING THE PROVISION OF ANY SUCH RELIEF SINCE "YOU ARE KNOWN TO BE THE WORLD'S FOREMOST PROVIDER OF HUMANITARIAN AID."

3. AKADIRI BELIEVED THAT THE OAU HAD FAR BETTER CHANCE OF COMING UP WITH AN ACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION ON THE HORN THEN WOULD THE SECURITY COUNCIL. HE THOUGHT THAT AFRICANS MEETING TOGETHER COULD PRODUCE A RESOLUTION "MEANING ALL THINGS TO ALL PARTIES" WHEREAS SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE MIGHT PROVE MUCH MORE CONTENTIOUS. HE NOTED THAT THE OAU OPERATED BY CONSENSUS RATHER THAN VOTE. AS EXAMPLES OF THE KINDS OF ISSUES HE THOUGHT THE OAU COULD DEAL WITH MORE READILY THAN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, HE CITED SELF-DETERMINATION, WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS, AND A CEASE-FIRE.

4. COMMENT: AKADIRI'S EXPRESSION OF FM PREFERENCE FOR CONTINUED OAU EFFORTS RATHER THAN SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION WAS VERY DEFINITE.  
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HE SUGGESTED THERE WOULD BE STRONG OPPOSITION FROM AFRICAN AND POSSIBLY OTHER STATES TO A MOVE SO TO SEIZE THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE MATTER. HE APPEARED READY, HOWEVER, TO ACCEPT THE CONCEPT OF UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE IN THE HUMANITARIAN FIELD. PROVIDED THE DECISION TO MOBILIZE SUCH ASSISTANCE CONTAINED NO, REPEAT, NO REFERENCE TO OR IMPLICATION ON SUBSTANTIVE POLITICAL ISSUES (E.G. RECOGNITION OF BORDERS, AUTONOMY, SELF-DETERMINATION, OR CEASE-FIRE), I BELIEVE THE FMG WOULD NOT OPPOSE SUCH ACTION.

5. PARAGRAPH 1 OF REFTTEL INDICATES GARBA "HAS SPOKEN OF NIGERIA BEING ABSOLVED OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY." I AM PUZZLED AS TO WHAT GARBA MEANT. AT ANY RATE, I GOT NO HINT OF THIS FROM AKADIRI, WHO IMPLIED THAT GARBA REMAINED COMMITTED TO A SERIOUS EFFORT TO PRODUCE RESULTS FROM AN APRIL MEETING IN LAGOS. AKADI SAID IT WOULD NOE AT TNA MINISTERIAL LEVEL, HOPEFULLY FOLLOWED SHORTLY THEREAFTER BY A SUMMIT TO RATIFY ITS CONCLUSIONS.  
EASUM  
UNQUOTE VANCE

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